

Webster 1989

periodic table

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the atomic number in a systematic and periodic way (*PERIODIC TABLE) **periodic table (chem.)** a tabular arrangement of elements based upon atomic number and classifying the periodic recurrence of properties. The modern periodic table in long-period contains horizontally a very short period of elements, two short periods of eight elements each, two long periods of 18 elements, a very long period of 32 elements, and an incomplete period. Vertically there are 16 columns (excluding the lanthanide series and incomplete actinide series) comprising eight groups divided into two subgroups each. Elements to the left and in the center are metals, to the right nonmetals. Metallic properties are most pronounced for elements in the left-hand corner, and nonmetallic properties are most pronounced for elements in the upper-hand corner. Transition from metallic to nonmetallic properties is usually gradual and occurs from left to right. The structure of periodic table and the periodic law follow from the quantized structure of the

metal (peri:ōstī:al) *adj.* of the periosteum, *te-d-around* a bone

st-eum (peri:ōstī:əm) *pl.* perioste-a-ti-e *n.* a fibrous membrane of connective tissue which closely surrounds all bones at the joints [Mod. L. fr. Gk *peri*, *i*-*ōsteon*, bone]

peri- (peri:ōtī:k) 1. *adj.* of or designating the ear or the bony structure that surrounds it 2. *n.* this bony structure [fr. PERI-+Gk *ōs* (ōtos), ear]

peri-tic (peri:pā:tētīk) *adj.* moving about in place **Peri-pa-tetic** 1. *adj.* Aristotle's follower of Aristotle, an Aristotelian *n.* a follower of Aristotle, an Aristotelian

from Aristotle's habit of conversing with them they walked in the Lyceum) **peri-cally** *adv.* [F. *peri-pā:tētīk* fr. L. fr. Gk *around+patēin*, to walk]

te-i-a, peri-pet-i-a (peri:pā:tā:ī) *n.* a suddenly or reversal of fortune in tragedy or

[Gk *peripeteia* fr. *peri*, around+*pītein*, to

periferal (peri:fərəl) *adj.* of, concerning or pertaining to a periphery [or lying on a periphery] *er* of electronic or mechanical devices of the basic processor, e.g., card readers, terminals, etc. || (*anat.*) of those which run outward from the brain and cord to the tissues [fr. Gk *periphērēs*, around]

perif-ry (peri:fā:rī) *pl.* periph-er-ies *n.* the part of something thought of as circled, the periphery of consciousness boundary or outer surface of a space or (act) the areas in which the nerves terminate [fr. L.L. *peripheria* fr. Gk fr. *peri*, *peri*, to carry]

periph-eric (peri:fā:rik) *adj.* (acoustics) of a system with several speakers placed in various directions

perif-risis (peri:fā:ris) *pl.* periph-rases *n.* a circumlocution or an instance of

[Gk fr. *peri*, around+*phrāzein*, to speak]

periph-ristic (peri:fā:stik) *adj.* expressed in a fashion [gram.] formed by the use of verbs etc. instead of by inflection, to do for it does' **peri-phrāst-i-cally**

peri-skop (peri:skō:p) *n.* tubular optical device in submarines etc. and in scientific instruments, by which light received by an eyepiece or prism at one end of the tube is by another at the other end. An object seen without being exposed, or

adj. [fr. Gk *peri*, around+*skopos*, to look]

peri- to suffer utter ruin or destruction *v.i.* to suffer utter ruin or destruction, the fire || to suffer spiritual death

of such a thing! **perish-a-ble** *adj.* liable to decay or deterioration, perishable

perishables *pl.* *n.* perishable goods

adj. [of cold, pain etc.] extreme || **perish, blasted, a perishing nuisance**

peri- (peri:s) *adj.* having the axis of the foot || of or belonging to

ac-tyl (parisoudā:kā:tāl) *1. adj.* having

peri-toes, or toes placed evenly in *ac-tyl*, an order of ungulate mammals

mals having such toes, e.g. the horse, rhinoceros 2. *n.* a mammal of this order [fr. Mod. L. *perissodactylus* fr. Gk *perissos*, uneven+*daktylos*, finger, digit]

peri-sta-sis (peri:stī:lsis, peri:stā:lsis) *pl.* peri-stal-ses (peri:stā:lsiz) *n.* a series of muscular

contractions of a hollow structure, esp. of the alimentary canal, which force the contents along || one of these contractions [Mod. L. fr. Gk]

peri-stal-tic (peri:stō:ltik, peri:stā:ltik) *adj.* of, relating to or characterized by peristalsis [fr. Gk *peristaltikos* fr. *peristellein*, to send around]

peri-sto-me (peri:stō:um) *n.* (bot.) the fringe of

teeth surrounding the opening of a moss capsule || (bot.) the area around the mouth in

certain invertebrates [fr. Mod. L. *peristoma* fr. Gk *peri*, around+*stoma*, mouth]

peri-sty-le (peri:stī:l) *n.* a row of columns enclosing a courtyard or building, esp. supporting the roof of the space so surrounded [F. *peri-style* fr. L. fr. Gk fr. *peri*, around+*stulos*, pillar]

peri-the-cl-um (peri:thī:si:əm) *pl.* peri-the-ci-a (peri:thī:si:ə) *n.* (bot.) a flask-shaped case enclosing the fruiting body in certain fungi [Mod. L. fr. Gk *peri*, around+*thēkē*, box]

peri-to-neal, peri-to-nae-al (peri:tā:nl) *adj.* of the peritoneum

peri-to-ne-um, peri-to-nae-um (peri:tā:nl) *pl.* peri-to-ne-a, peri-to-nae-a (peri:tā:nl) *n.* (anat.) the membrane lining the abdominal viscera and the interior of the abdominal wall [L. fr. Gk fr. *peri*, around+*teinein*, to stretch]

peri-to-ni-tis (peri:tā:nlītīs) *n.* inflammation of the peritoneum caused by the spreading of infection from a diseased or ruptured visceral body [Mod. L. fr. Gk fr. *peritoneos*, stretched over]

peri-tus, pl. -ti (pērītā:) *n.* 1. Vatican Council

adviser. 2. a theological adviser

peri-wig (pērīwīg) *n.* (esp. hist.) a wig [earlier

peruwe fr. F. *perque*] **peri-win-ki-e (peri:wīngk'l)** *n.* any member of *Littorina*, fam. *Littorinidae*, a genus of edible sea snails found on shore or in shallow water [O.E. *pinewinclan* pl.]

peri-winkle *n.* a member of *Vinca*, fam. *Apocynaceae*, a genus of European, North American and W. Asian often creeping, perennial, evergreen plants with glossy leaves and blue or white flowers, esp. *V. major* and *V. minor* [O.E. *peruine* fr. L.]

peri-jur (pērīdžār) *pres. part.* perjur-ing past and past part. perjur-ed *v. refl.* to make (one-self) guilty of perjury [O.F. *perjurier*]

perjur-er (pērīdžār) *n.* a person guilty of perjury [A.F. *parjurour*, *perjurour*]

perjur-y (pērīdžār) *pl.* perjur-ies *n.* (law) the crime of swearing on oath that something is true which one knows is false, or of telling a lie when under oath to tell the truth || failure to do what one has sworn on oath to do [A.F. *perjurie*]

perk (pērk) *v.t.* (with 'up') to restore good

spirits or courage to a drink will perk him up || (with 'up') to make bright or gay in appearance, to perk up a coat with a red scarf || *v.i.* (with 'up') to recover one's health, energy or good spirits after sickness, depression etc. [etym. doubtful]

perk *v.i.* (pop., of coffee) to percolate

Perkins (pērkənz), Frances (1882-1965) U.S. secretary of labor, the first woman cabinet member. Serving (1933-46) in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, she greatly strengthened the Labor Department, esp. in the bureaus of Labor Statistics, Women and Children as well as championing such reforms as social security, federal public works and relief and legislation for minimum wages and maximum hours and abolition of child labor

perk-man (pērk'mān) *n.* an official or business man who receives substantial income in the form of perquisites of his job; coined by President Jimmy Carter in 1977

perk-y (pērkī:) *comp.* perk-i-er superl. perk-i-est *adj.* lively and cheerful || cocky [PERK]

perk-s (pērk's) *pl.* *n.* (Br., pop.) *prerequisites*

Perlis (pērlēs) a state (area 316 sq. miles, pop.

147,726) of Malaysia in N.W. Malaya. Capital: Kangar. Part of Kedah until 1842, it was ruled by Siam (1842-1909), after which it was ceded to Britain. It joined the Federation of Malaya (1948)

perlite (pērlī:t) *n.* an acid, glassy, volcanic

rock marked with concentric cracks separating small globular portions formed by tension during cooling

perlit-ic (pērlī:tk) *adj.* [F. fr. *perle*, pearl]

pernicious (pērnī:shəs) *adj.* having

the effect of a curse; injurious; *pernicious* to health

pernicious *n.* a curse; a *pernicious* influence

pernicious *adj.* *pernicious* to health

pernicious *adj.*